Land in Himachal Pradesh offered to the army for setting up units/establishments

†*236. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has offered 790 acres of land in Una to the army for setting up of their units and establishments which has been accepted by the army and the Ministry has given orders to the officers Boa^d to ascertain its feasibility;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this matter is being examined; and

(c) if so, by when the army will finally acquire the said land for setting up of their units and establishments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Himachal Pradesh Government had indicated its willingness to offer land in Una to the Army for setting up a Military Station. The Army Authorities, while accepting the offer, in principle, ordered a Board of Officers to ascertain the suitability of the land for the said purpose;

(b) The Army Authorities have examined the suitability of the land offered by the State Government and found it unsuitable for setting up a Military Station at Una;

(c) In view of the answer to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Liberalised pension to war widows

*237. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to grant liberalised pension to war widows is stll pending even after two years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The scheme for grant of liberalized family pension to war widows is already in existence since February, 1972.

(b) In view of reply at (a), question does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.